



**Michigan Supreme Court
BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS**

Michigan Hall of Justice
P.O. Box 30104
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: (517) 373-4453
Fax: (517) 373-5038
E-mail: ble-info@courts.mi.gov

**NOTICE REGARDING CHANGES TO THE METHOD OF
SCORING THE MICHIGAN BAR EXAMINATION**

In order to assure consistency in the level of difficulty of Michigan bar examination essay questions from one examination to another, and thereby to more accurately assess whether applicants have attained the level of competence in the law necessary for the protection of the public, the Board of Law Examiners has determined to scale the essay examination scores to the scoring of the Multistate Bar Examination. To do this, the Board has determined that it is necessary to eliminate the practice of not grading the essay answers of applicants obtaining a threshold score on the MBE. This change will conform Michigan's practices to those of 43 of the other 52 jurisdictions currently administering the MBE. Moreover, it is the view of the Board that this change will also more accurately gauge whether applicants have attained the level of specific competence in Michigan law necessary for the protection of the public.

Therefore, effective with the administration of the February 2009 Michigan bar examination, all essay answers will be graded and no applicant will pass the examination solely on the basis of the applicant's MBE score. The combined passing score will remain at 135, determined by the formula currently being employed.